

CLAIMS

1. Method for caching Internet information, comprising the steps of:

- 5 deriving information sent to an end user from an Internet content provider based upon an information request from said end user; and
 distributing said information to a set of geographically distributed cache servers.

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2. Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said deriving step is performed in connection with a cache server serving said end user, said end user being located in a geographical region served by said a cache server.

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3. Method as claimed in claim 2, comprising storing said information in said a cache server.

4. Method as claimed in claim 3, comprising storing
20 said information in said a cache server only if said content provider is located outside said region.

5. Method as claimed in claim 3, comprising storing
25 said information in said a cache server only if said content provider is located inside said region.

6. Method as claimed in claim 2, comprising performing said distributing step only if said content provider is located outside said region.

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7. Method as claimed in claim 2, comprising performing said distributing step only if said content provider is located inside said region.

35 8. Method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising distributing said information to said

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set of geographically distributed cache servers using
multicast communication.

9. Method as claimed in claim 8, comprising distri-
5 buting said information to said set of geographically
distributed cache servers using a satellite link.

10. Method as claimed in any one of the preceding
claims, comprising only distributing said information
10 based upon the outcome of a rule determining, for each
derived piece of information, whether or not it is to be
distributed to said set of geographically distributed
cache servers.

11. Method as claimed in any one of the preceding
claims, wherein said set of geographically distributed
cache servers serve different geographical regions.

12. Method as claimed in any one of the preceding
20 claims, wherein said set of geographically distributed
cache servers are distributed within a linguistically or
culturally defined area.

13. Method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said set
25 of geographically distributed cache servers are distri-
buted within a linguistically or culturally defined area
encompassing said regions.

14. Internet caching system, comprising:
30 a set of geographically distributed cache servers;
means for deriving Internet information derived in
connection with the operation of one of said cache
servers; and
means for distributing said derived information to
35 essentially all of said cache servers.

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21. Internet caching system as claimed in any one of
claims 14 to 20, wherein said distributing means are
35 arranged to distribute said information to said set of
cache servers using multicast communication.

22. Internet caching system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said distributing means are arranged to distribute said information to said set cache servers via a satellite link.

23. Internet caching system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 22, comprising processing means for determining whether or not said derived information is to be distributed to said set of cache servers.

24. Internet caching system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 23, wherein said geographically distributed cache servers are arranged to serve different geographical regions.

25. Internet caching system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 24, wherein said geographically distributed cache servers are distributed within a linguistically or culturally defined geographical area.

26. Internet caching system as claimed in claims 24 to 24, wherein said geographically distributed cache servers are distributed within a linguistically or culturally defined geographical area encompassing said regions.

30 means for deriving information sent by an Internet
content provider to an end user located within said
region as a result of an information request made by said
end user; and

means for distributing said information to a set of
35 geographically distributed cache servers, said servers
preferably serving different geographical regions.

28. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 27, wherein said cache servers are distributed within a linguistically or culturally defined geographical area.

5 29. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 27 or 28, comprising processing means for determining whether or not a specific piece of derived information is to be cached in said server.

10 30. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 27, 28 or 29, comprising processing means for determining whether or not a specific piece of derived information is to be distributed to said set of geographically distributed cache servers.

15 31. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 29 or 30, wherein decisions made by said processing means is based upon whether or not said content provider is located within said region.

20 32. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 29, 30 or 31, wherein said processing means is arranged to instruct said server to not cache said information and not distribute said information to said set of geographically distributed cache servers if said end user and said
25 Internet content provider are both located within the same region as said server.

30 33. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 29, 30 or 31, wherein said processing means is arranged to instruct said server to cache said information and to not distribute said information to said set of geographically distributed cache servers if said Internet content provider is located within the same region as said
35 server.

FOR PUBLICATION

WO 99/05584

PCT/SE98/01316

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34. Internet cache server as claimed in claim 29, 30 or 31, wherein said processing means is arranged to instruct said server to not cache said information but instead only distribute said information to said set of
- 5 geographically distributed cache servers if said Internet content provider is located within the same region as said server.

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